

KPEWI DUROP

LANGUAGE OF THE
BORORP OF THE KORUP
ETHNIC GROUP

Ekpe Inyang

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KPEWI DURORP
Language of the Bororp of the
Korup ethnic group

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Preface – Akpukwen

Durorp is a language spoken by a minority group of people, Bororp of the Korup ethnic group (some inhabiting the South Western part of Cameroon and others the South Eastern tip of Nigeria), who are said to have migrated originally from somewhere in the Central African Republic. It is an interesting semi-Bantu, or Bantoid, language which, unfortunately, has not received the literary and academic attention it deserves.

The first attempt at writing the language was by an Orkoyorng man, Eyoh Otu Ekpenyong, who hatched what he titled *Buka Bunde*. *Buka Bunde* concentrated mostly on assigning Durorp the equivalents of some English words and expressions, which qualifies it as a kind of mini bilingual dictionary.

The second attempt was by a foreign postgraduate student who had the interest in and opportunity of doing her Masters thesis on Durorp. Her thesis, like *Buka Bunde*, focused more or less on English equivalents of words and simple expressions, albeit with some attempt at the linguistic dissection of the language.

Kpewi Durorp is the third attempt at bringing Durorp into the public domain, and is a more detailed introduction to the language. It contains sixteen chapters which address important elements of grammar, with some including mini bilingual dictionaries, with words organised not alphabetically but thematically, with the singular aim of facilitating learning and easy acquisition of the language. There is also a Durorp-

English Dictionary that accompanies this publication, to facilitate the development of Durorp vocabulary.

The writing of *Kpewi Durorp* was inspired by Offy's (my then ten year old daughter's) Grade 6 assignments in which the teacher asked the pupils to write from 1 to 30, and to also compose prayers, in their various languages. Offy's interest in the assignments fundamentally exposed my neglect of this equally significant aspect of her education, and this posed a great challenge to me.

The task initially involved a lot of personal recollection, to test my own ability to communicate fluently in Durorp, as it were, despite my many years of not having Kororp people to speak with regularly. But as time went on it became necessary for me to plunge into some rigorous research, consulting other Kororp people and even holding small workshops with them, for validation of what I had managed to write and for tapping some additional ideas on other important words and expressions that need to be considered.

The study has revealed that Durorp is a very rich and fascinating language that, like every other language, has borrowed substantially from other (neighbouring and distant) languages. Another important observation is that there are a good number of words and expressions in Durorp that have no direct English equivalents, and vice versa.

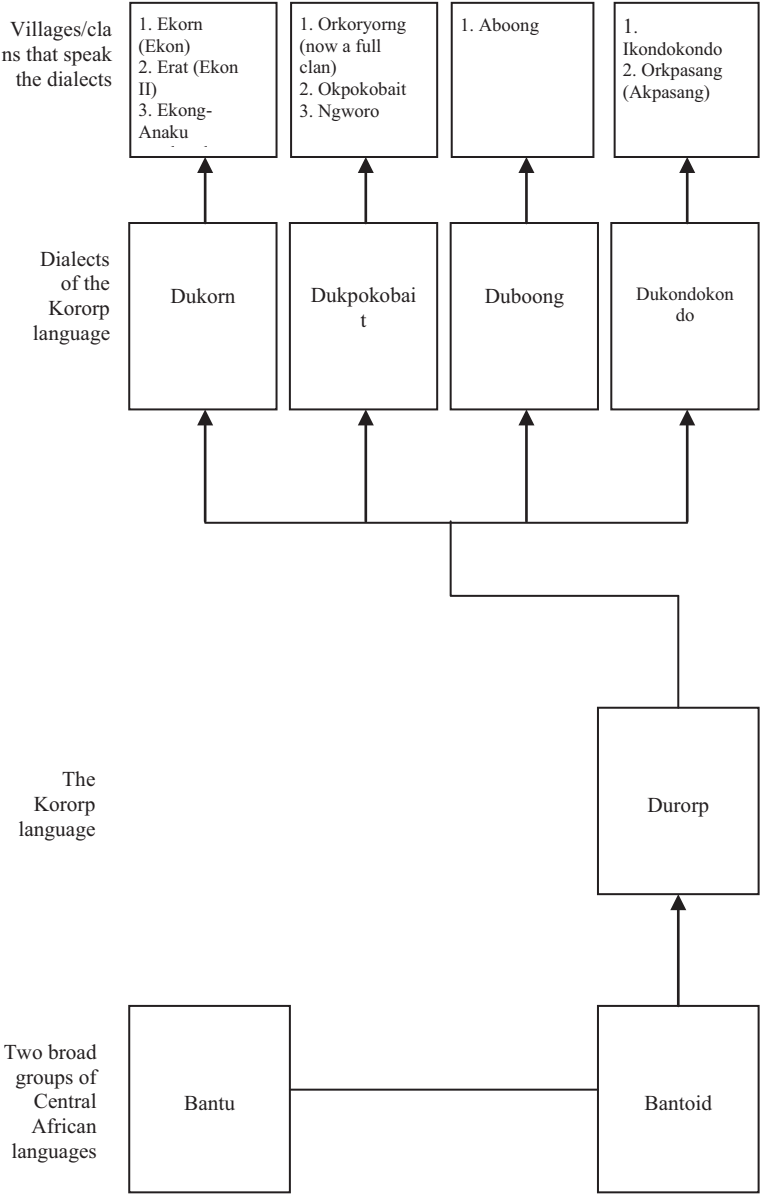
Inasmuch as the initial effort was to help Offy satisfy her thirst to learn her language, the purpose of the bigger task of writing *Kpewi Durorp* remains to help the learner acquire the language with minimal strain.

This book, despite its apparent thoroughness, is still considered a beta version and is open to criticisms aimed particularly at improving it both in linguistic quality and pedagogical approach. I, therefore, urge every user—a Kororp person or a non-Kororp person with skills and

expertise in linguistics or interest in Durorp—to make meaningful suggestions or contributions.

Ekpe Inyang
Buea, 23 November 2010

Root and Dialects of Durorp, the Language of Kororp



Chapter 1

Alphabet – Dutina Da Buyairi

1.1 Introduction

Durorp is made up of twenty (21) letters of the alphabet—five (6) vowels and fifteen (15) consonants. The consonants that are absent in the language are c (as it is replaced by k, except in combination with “h”), g (except in combination with “n”), h (except in combination with “e” or “ng”), l, x, and z. Therefore, the letters of the alphabet in Durorp are:

**a b ch d e f i j k m n o or p q r s t
u w y**

It should, however, be noted that the consonant “j” has a sound in Durorp but does not begin a word, except a borrowing, and comes in between nouns like Ojom and Ojong. The consonants “p” and “h” appear in words but are very silent; more commonly, “p” is combined with “k” to produce “kp” and “h” with “ng” to produce “ngh”. The consonants “l”, “x”, and “z” do not exist at all in Durorp, even as “silent letters”.

1.2 Vowels – banchangdormorn

a as in “aton” (wife)

e as in “ebia” (dog)

- i** as in “inornoi” (finger)
- o** as in “onerom” (a man)
- or** as in “orne” (human/person)
- u** as in “unorn” (fowl)

1.3 Consonants – bambabadormorn

- b** as in “bari” (leave)
- ch** as in “chooka” (shout)
- d** as in “dia” (eat)
- f** as in “fina” (disturb/trouble)
- j** as in “Ojom” (a Korup name)
- k** as in “kuba” (hold)
- as in “kpara” (hang; don’t)
- as in “kwei” (sweep)
- m** as in “mina” (squeeze)
- n** as in “ngo” (you)
- as in “kpang” (hear)

as in “ngha” (like)

p as in yorp (deceive)

q as in “quai” (come)

r as in “rik” (return)

s as in “sorba” (boil)

t as in “tibe” (happen)

w as in “wiba” (fasten)

y as in “yonene” (spin/turn)

Chapter 2

Counting - Dukuk

2.1 Introduction

Counting in Durorp is both fascinating and demanding. Fascinating because of the sequence, and demanding because of the variations in saying some of the numbers as dictated by the noun or pronoun they denote. Also, counting in tens is alternated with counting in fives, as can be seen, for instance, in counting from 1 to 10, 11 to 15, 16 to 20; 21 to 30, 31 to 35, 36 to 40, etc.

2.2 Numbers

1 BUNI

2 Buwan

3 Bunan

4 Bunai

5 Buneng

6 Kasakasa

7 Bunai na bunan

8 Changha-changhanai

9 Buneng na bunai

10 DIO

11 Dio na buni

12 Dio na buwan

13 Dio na bunan

14 Dio na bunai

15 DOKUN

- 16 Dokun na buni
- 17 Dokun na buwan
- 18 Dokun na bunan
- 19 Dokun na bunai

20 DAKANDO

- 21 Dakando na buni
- 22 Dakando na buwan
- 23 Dakando na bunan
- 24 Dakando na bunai
- 25 Dakando na buneng
- 26 Dakando na kasakasa
- 27 Dakando na bunai na bunan
- 28 Dakando na changha-changhanai
- 29 Dakando na buneng na bunai

30 DAKANDO NA DIO

- 31 Dakando na dio na buni
- 32 Dakando na dio na buwan
- 33 Dakando na dio na bunan
- 34 Dakando na dio na bunai

35 DAKANDO NA DOKUN

- 36 Dakando na dokun na buni
- 37 Dakando na dokun na buwan
- 38 Dakando na dokun na bunan
- 39 Dakando na dokun na bunai

40 NAKADO NAWAN

- 41 Nakando nawan na buni
- 42 Nakando nawan na buwan
- 43 Nakando nawan na bunan
- 44 Nakando nawan na bunai
- 45 Nakando nawan na buneng
- 46 Nakando nawan na kasakasa
- 47 Nakando nawan na bunai na bunan

48 Nakando nawan na changha-changhanai

49 Nakando nawan na buneng na bunai

50 NAKANDO NAWAN NA DIO

51 Nakando nawan na dio na buni

52 Nakando nawan na dio na buwan

53 Nakando nawan na dio na bunan

54 Nakando nawan na dio na bunai

55 NAKANDO NAWAN NA DOKUN

56 Nakando nawan na dokun na buni

57 Nakando nawan na dokun na buwan

58 Nakando nawan na dokun na bunan

59 Nakando nawan na dokun na bunai

60 NAKANDO NANAN

61 Nakando nanan na buni

62 Nakando nanan na buwan

63 Nakando nanan na bunan

64 Nakando nanan na bunai

65 Nakando nanan na buneng

66 Nakando nanan na kasakasa

67 Nakando nanan na bunai na bunan

68 Nakando nanan na changha-changhanai

69 Nakando nanan na buneng na bunai

70 NAKANDO NANAN NA DIO

71 Nakando nanan na dio na buni

72 Nakando nanan na dio na buwan

73 Nakando nanan na dio na bunan

74 Nakando nanan na dio na bunai

75 NAKANDO NANAN NA DOKUN

76 Nakando nanan na dukun na buni

77 Nakando nanan na dukun na buwan

78 Nakando nanan na dukun na bunan

79 Nakando nanan na dukun na bunai

80 NAKANDO NANAI

81 Nakando nanai na buni

82 Nakando nanai na buwan

83 Nakando nanai na bunan

84 Nakando nanai na bunai

85 Nakando nanai na buneng

86 Nakando nanai na kasakasa

87 Nakando nanai na bunai na bunan

88 Nakando nanai na changha-changhanai

89 Nakando nanai na buneng na bunai

90 NAKANDO NANAI NA DIO

91 Nakando nanai na dio na buni

92 Nakando nanai na dio na buwan

93 Nakando nanai na dio na bunan

94 Nakando nanai na dio na bunai

95 NAKANDO NANAI NA DOKUN

96 Nakando nanai na dokun na buni

97 Nakando nanai na dokun na buwan

98 Nakando nanai na dokun na bunan

99 Nakando nanai na dokun na bunai

100 IKIE (NYINI)

200 MUNKIE MUWAN

300 MUNKIE MUNAN

400 MUNKIE MUNAI

500 MUNKIE MUNENG

600 MUNKIE KASAKASA

700 MUNKIE MUNAI NA MUNAN

800 MUNKIE CHANGHA-CHANGHANAI

900 MUNKIE MUNENG NA MUNAI

1,000 TORSIN (QUONI)

1,000,000 MIRIORN (QUONI)

1,000,000,000 BIRIORN (QUONI)

2.3 Some Mathematical language

Operations		Signs	Examples	
Durorp	English		Durorp	English
Baba	Plus (Add)	+	Dio baba bunan	Ten plus three
Tor	Minus (Subtract)	-	Dio tor bunai	Ten minus four
Chuwere nta	Multiplied by	x	Dio chuwere nta orwan	Ten multiplied by two
Tuk a bikaim	Divided by	÷	Dio tuk a bikaim biwan	Ten divided two
Bubura	Equals	=	Dio baba dio bubura	Ten plus ten equals

2.4 Different ways of saying the same number

Group	Examples	1	plural	2	3	4	5	7	9
1	bien	buni	bien	buwan	bunan	bunai	buneng	bunai na bunan	buneng na binai
		-	borkor	bawan	banan	banai	beneng	banai na bunan	beneng na binai
2	bekork	baini	bekork	bawan	banan	banai	beneng	bani na banan	beneng na bani
3	chap echari chop etom ekpere	chaini	ichap ichari ichop itom ikpere	iwan	inan	inai	ineng	inai ninan	ineng ninai
4	itum ikot itort Inei intork	nyini	muntum munkot muntort munci muntork	munwan	munan	munai	muneng	munai na munan	muneng na munai
5	dona dabai dekeit doronghi	daini	nona nabai nekeit noronghi	nawan	nanan	nanai	neneng	nanai na nanan	neneng na nanai
6	usan utang utoninkang una'an	quni	nasan natang notoninkang nana'an	nawan	nanan	nanai	neneng	nanai na nanan	neneng na nanai

	unan		nanan								
7	dukam dunang durorp dukwang	duni	nikam ninam nirorp nikwang	niwan	ninan	ninai	nineng	ninai na ninan	nineng na ninai		
8	korsowa kakam kakang kekpeit kornorngha kantak kenci karia kaana	kaini	borsowa bakam banang bekpeit bornorngha bantak benei baria baana	bawan	banan	banai	beneng	banai na banan	beneng na banai		
9	tian kini	kini	bian bini	biwan	binan	binai	bineng	binai na binan	bineng na binai		
10	kwen aton orom ntem	quoni	ben baton borom bantem	bawan	banan	banai	beneng	banai na banan	beneng na banai		

Chapter 3

Greetings – Uchaina

3.1 Introduction

Greetings in Durorp, as in many other African languages, takes the form of questions. The table below contains a few forms of greetings.

Practice - Dukpewi

Scene 1

Awor : A yaini?

Manfoorn: I na ngo. Baikait a?

Awor : Bere. Be ngo a?

Manfoorn: Bere.

Scene 2

Ikwor : A re?

Osere : O-oo. A rik?

Ikwor : O-oo.

Scene 3

Eyork : A re?

Erera : O-oo. A quai?

Eyork : O-oo.

(After a while)

Eyork : Nornggha-o.

Erera : I na ngo?

(Eyork leaves)

3.2 Simple greetings

English	Durorp	Response
How are you?	Baikait a/Baikait baingo a? (to many=Baikait baimbon a?)	Bere (It is there/fine)
And you?	Baingo a? (How about yours?) (to many=Baimbon a?)	Bere (It is there/fine)
Good morning	A yaini? (Have you woken?) (to many=Bu yaini?)	I na ngo (Yes, and you too; note that the “I” is the short form of “inhi” which means “Yes”)
Good afternoon	A re? (Are you there?) (to many=Bu re?)	O-oo (Yes)
Good night	Norngha-o (Sleep, OK?) (to many=Norngha nor-o)	I na ngo (Yes, and you too) (to many=I na mbon)
Welcome	A rik? (Have you returned?) (to many=Bu rik?)	O-oo (Yes)
Welcome	A qai? (Have you come?) (for a visitor who has to return (to many=Bu qai?)	O-oo/ehn/inghi (Yes)
Thank you	Asai o (You have done it) (to many=Bu sai o)	O-oo/ehn (Yes)

Chapter 4

Nouns – Bantainaniin (Sing=Antainaniin)

4.1 Introduction

A noun is a name of a person, animal, place or thing. There are compound nouns which represent those of persons and places and special things. There are also common nouns that represent those of animals and things. Nouns can be abstract, such as feelings, or can be divided into countable and uncountable. **Bantainaniin** literally means “those that denote names”.

4.2 About original Kororp names - Ubangha amang a niin na Kororp

Male names	Female names	Unisex names
Anki	Akon	Aboork
Akparika	Akoon	Ayong
Akpai	Akwai	
Anaman	Ambang	
Any	Anum	
Anyam	Ato	
Arera	Ayaan	
Aroong	Ayaang	
Awor	Beyaani	
Beya	Manfoorn	
Duchorma	Ngworn	

Dayawa	Nyam	
Ekpor	Okum	
Enoom	Okumanka	
Etang	Oreng	
Ewon	Oroka	
Eyoh	Oryorka	
Eyok		
Mbeh		
Mboh		
Mburu		
Mburukem		
Ndifon		
Nkum		
Nkumanang		
Obasi		
Obiri		
Ojom		
Okuma		
Orume		
Osere		
Usim		
Usua		

4.3 About Korup families - Ubangha neyin na Korup

No	Family names	Roots	Possible meanings
1.	Bu Yeen	Ba Neyeen	People of Plums
2.	Besain	Ba Esain	People of Esain
3.	Besiwaan	Ba Esiwaan	People of Esiwaan
4.	Beyaboornng	Ba Aboornng	People of Aboornng
5.	Beyatang	Ba Eyatang	People of Eyatang
6.	Buneu	Ba Uneu	People of Uneu
7.	Bakainai Kaibini	Ba Kainai Kaibini	People of Ebony

4.4 About languages (Sing=Durorp)

Ubangha irup

Anang	Dunang
Durorp (Kororp Language)	Durorp
Ejagham	Dukpa
English	Dukat
French	Dufrench
German	Dujaman
Hausa	Dukusa
Ibibio	Dubiobio
Ibo	Dunenghe

4.5 About people

Ubangha bene

Anang	Orne a Anang
Ejagham	Orkpa
English	Orkat (generally used for

whiteman)	
French	Orne a French
German	Orne a Jaman
Hausa	Orne Okusa
Ibibio	Orne a Ibibio
Ibo	Orne Unenge
Korup	Ororp (pl=Bororp)
Name	diin(pl=niin)

4.6 About types of people and how the are related

Aunt/Ancle

Blackman

b'orne)

Child

Daughter

ornaton)

Father

Friend

Grand father

Grand mother

Husband

Man/male

Manhood

Maternal cousin

(pl=baminkei ba buman)

Maternal nephew or niece
buman)

Mother

Nursing mother

Your mother

Ubangha bene na arangha bewora

Aminkei amene/ama

ambini orne (pl=bambini

kwen (pl=ben)

kwen ornaton (pl=ben ba

amene (pl=bamene)

nsangha (pl=bunsangha)

Amene amene/ama

Ama amene/ama

orom (pl=borom)

ornerom (pl=bornerom)

durom

aminkei a buman

kwen a buman (pl=ben ba

ama (pl=bama)

ormanini (pl=bamanini)

Ornwha

Paternal cousin (pl=baminkei ba buwon)	aminkei a buwon
Paternal nephew or niece buwon)	kwen a buwon (pl=ben ba
Son ornerom)	kwen ornerom (pl=ben ba
Whiteman	orkat (pl=bakat/nakat)
Wife	aton (pl=baton)
Woman/female	ornaton (pl=bornaton)
Womanhood	duton

4.7 About human body

Ubangha baikait ba orne

Ankle	kort ka uworn (lirerally meaning “the neck of a foot”)
Heel	daisiid (pl.=naisiid)
Armpit	ukwau (pl=nakwau)
Back	inum (pl= -)
Back-bone	kinkorng (pl=binkorng)
Belly	buqun (pl= -)
Big toe/finger	orom-nnor
Blood	munchai (pl=nainchai)
Bone	kui (pl=bui)
Brain	mumbop (pl= -)
Chin	diat (pl=niat)
Diaphragm	okpo (pl= -)
Corpse	okpo (pl=nokpo)
Ear	dunung (pl=inung)
Elbow	ikoi
Eye	den (pl=nen)
Face	dunyor (pl=inyor)

Finger	inornoi a ubor
(pl=munornoi ma ubor)	
Foot	uworn (pl=iworn)
Hair	nin (pl= -)
Hand	ubor (pl=ibor)
Head	dono (pl=nono)
Heart	eromnsin (pl=buromnsin)
Intestine	duququni (pl=buququni)
Jaw	dudek (pl=mundek)
Joint	nkorn (pl=bunkorn)
Knee	dorom (pl=norom)
Liver	kaisin (pl=baisin)
Lung	kifokoro (pl=bifokoro)
Mind	esin (pl= -)
Mouth	ingwha (pl=mungwha)
Nail	kornoort (pl=bunoort)
Nail (metal)	kokpokpo
Neck	kort (pl=biort)
Nose	ichon (pl=munchon)
Nostril	doboki da ichon
(pl=noboki na ichon)	
Pancreas	deng-deng (pl= -)
Rib	kui ka dutang (pl= bui Ba itang)
Shoulder	ebat (pl=iibat)
Skull	kimbokoro (bimbokoro)
Stomach	kormkporn (pl=bunkporn)
Tail	dukein (pl=nikein)
Throat	ekpontong (bunpkontong)
Toe	inornoi uworn
(pl=munornoi ma uworn)	
Tongue	dara (pl=nara)

Tooth	denen (pl=nenen)
Vein	dusuwi (pl=isuwi)
Waist	konun (pl=bunun)
Wrist	kort ka ubor (literally
meaning “neck of hand”)	

4.8 About Illnesses

Ubangha bumork

Abscess	anyeng (pl=nanyeng)
Boil	keyini (pl=buyini)
Catarrh	ichon
Catarrh	ichon inunu
Chicken pox	osi
Cough	korngha
Craw-craw	dunanau
(pl=kananau/bunanau)	
Fever	ufiep
Headache	dono dekorikot (the
illness)/bukot dono (trouble)	
Leprosy	andoron
Mumps	mumkpungukpungu
Korngha	cough
Phlegm	mkpork a korngha
Spittle	kornyorni
Stomach ache	buqun
Tonsillitis	usiritornq

4.9 About human life Ubangha ikpein and behaviour na uwem orne

Abuse	kanai (pl=munai)
Anger	buru-esin
Apology	kikpe
Art/creativity	buka
Avoidance	korkworn
Bad heart	obei esin
Bad heartedness	bubiap esin
Beauty	enorm/bunorm
Beginning	akpantorngho
Behaviour	emana/kiro
Bitterness	busaiki
Blackness	kaibin
Boastfulness	dufamini
Body odour	korum ka baikait
Call	dukona
Cheat	amoi
Childishness	dien
Cleverness	bukorn-nen
Colour	kolor
Trick/Con	ifiork
Conk	imbot
Cry	munchen
Curse	itemi
Death	dukwor
Deceit	utikere
Delay/hesitation	ubowa ini
Destruction	ochorka
Dilly-dallying	ukparara
Discussion	nneme

Effort	ifik
End	akpatire
Evil/badness	ubaii
Fairness (of body)	buchoya koron
Feelings	nsai
First	akpa-ntorngor
Foolhardiness	kembeet
Foolishness/imbecility	orbei/kitu
Fright/Fear	buriem
Good behaviour	bunorm emana
Good heart	bunorm esin
Good/kind heartedness	bunorm esin
Gossip	keche
Grave	dunwha
Happiness/Joy	buneke esin
Hatred	deyen
High temper	butort-esin
Holiday	dekwei da kerek
Hunger	munkwou
Idleness	kire
Ill-luck	efore
Intelligence	mumbok/kimbokoro (brain/skull)
Issue	ukwen
Jealousy	isin enyin
Kick	duman
Kindness	bunorm kiro
Last	akpa-tire
Laugh	dusek
Laughter	desek
Laziness	bubian
Learning	ukpewiri

Life/lifestyle	leikpain/	emana
Look		keket
Love		dayawa
Luck		orfa
Marriage		daban
Money		inei (pl=munei)
Ostentation		butena-beket/bukpam-beket
Outsmarting		duyorp
Owner		anchorma
Plan		ediami
Plot		kenemi
Plot (against)		kichu
Practice		dukpewi
Pride/Arrogance		bunning-beket
Problem		nfina
Rampage		ochorka
Redness		koron
Refusal		desin
Respect		ukpono
Rest		kerek
Richness		duchorma da munei
Rumour		keche
Selfishness		bukparn
Senility		dunum
Shame		itorn
Shouting/din		kochok
Slap		ufia
Smell/ordour		korum
Smile		imum
Spoil		bowa
Stubbornness		bukorn-dono
Stupidity		kisiya

Surprise	bukwa-baikait
Sweetness	bunyenghe
Talk	ukwen
Thief	ochu
Thirst	koi
Thought	ekikere (pl=bukikere)
Trouble	ntume
Ugliness	bubaii
Unhappiness/sadness	buru esin
Unkindness	bubiab kiro
Waste	ubowa
Weakness	bukporkor
Wealth	duchorma
Whiteness	kobot
Wickedness	ibak
Wisdom	buroro

4.10 About the senses

Ubangha iboror a baikait

Hearing	Dukpanghini
Sight	Duninghini
Smell	Duruumani
Taste	Dukpanghini
Touch	Dukpukiri
The blind	abumkpuk
The deaf	orne-inung
The dumb	Emuum
The lame	orne-mbuni
Blindness	bumkpuk
Deafness	inung
Dumbness	imum

Lameness

mbuni

4.11 About God

Ubangha Obasi

Bible

Nkwet Obasi

Celebration

idara

Christmas

diet/ukap-idisua

Church

Enor a Obasi/ereri

(pl=inora Obasi/ereri)

Commandments of God

Bumbet ba Obasi

Son of God

Kwen a Obasi

Disciples

Ekpere erem

The Appostles

Buumbet ba Obasi

Heaven

Echong a Obasi

Hell

dusai da setan

Jesus

Yisors, Yises

Holy Communion

daria da Orbasi

Law

Mbet ((pl=bumbet)

New

obufa

New Year

obufa diet

Prayer

akam

Pray

borng

Satan

setan (pl=busetan)

Son of God

Kwen a Obasi

Song

dortor (pl=nortor)

Shadow

ukot

Spirit

kankanghana

Holy Spirit

Kankanghana ka Obasi

Soul

ikpong

World

kaibain

Sin

ubaii

Temptation

iromo

4.12 About house

Ubangha enor

Back yard

dorongi

Bolt

dukpangha

Door

itum

Front yard

utung

Key

ukporkere (pl=norkporkere)

Lock

dorkin

Pillar

dootuuma

Roof

echong enor (meaning upper part of the house)

Storey building

enor echong

Veranda

hoteke (pl=neteke)

Wall

dubut

Window

windo (pl=buwindo)

4.13 About types of buildings and parts

Ubangha utor inor na bikaim (sing=kikaim)

Bank

enor amunei

Centre

ufort

Court

enor esop

Front

dunyor

Front yard

utung

Back/rear

dorbork

Backyard

doronghi

Middle

ufort

House

enor

Hospital

enor a bian

Market	okum
Prison	enor a mkpokobi
School	enor a nkwet
Village/town/city	dusai (pl=nisai, when giving number or “isai” for unspecified number)

4.14 About living room Ubangha orsam

Beer/wine	munok
Hall/parlour	orsam
Palm wine	orkem
Seat/chair	korsorwa
Table	okpokoro
Table chair	orkpakara

4.15 About bedroom Ubangha ubet and toiletna eno usaing

Bed	kornorngba
Bed sheet	eta a kornorngba
Comb	kakpai
Lamp	utonikang
Mirror	okut-iso
Needle	abiabun
Needle (big type)	okumi
Pen-knife	ndundian
Pillow	udoribot
Razor	desor
Scissors	ufat-nkpor

Soap
Syringe
Towel
Water

suorp
abiabun
tawet
mini

4.16 About clothes

Blouse
Breast-wear
Cap/hat
Cloth/Clothes (sing)
Cloths/Clothes (pl)
Handkerchief

Head tie
Sandals

Shirt

Shoe
Shorts
Slippers
Trousers
Underwear

Ubangha ita

buba (pl=bububa???)
uwab-eba (nawab-eba)
itam (pl=muntam)
eta
ita
ukwork-irinua (pl=nokwork-
irinua)
borkit (pl=buborkit)
ikpakot a forng (literally open
shoes)
oforng irem (pl=norforng
irem)
ikpakot (pl=munkpakot)
kaki (pl=bukaki)
akpakpat (sing= -)
anyiri iworn (pl=nanyiri iworn)
iba (pl=mumba)

4.17 About kitchen

Boiling
cooking
Fire wood

Ubangha enor a ekup

dusorbari
ekup
imet

Fire	dion
Smoke	kortorng
Roasting	duwouwiri
Frying	duchomini
Kitchen stool	ifum (pl=munfum)
Knife	edising (pl=burising)
Light	dion
Mortar	urung(pl=norung)
Mortar pestle	dorbort d'urung
Pan	usan
Head-pan	akpankpang
Plate	usan ikot (pl=nasan nikot)
Pot	dorkorng (pl=norkorng)
Container	kotoma (pl=butoma)
Cup	corp (pl=bucorp)
Spoon	ikot (pl=munkot)
Fork	ikot a nenen (pl=munkot ma nenen)
Barn	utang
Fireplace	doona

4.18 About the market Ubangha okum

Market	Okum
Articles of trade	Borkor b'okum
Banana	banana (pl=bubanana)
Banana (native type)	ekumambiere
Beans	inoorp
Food meaning something to eat)	daria (or bien ba daria literally)
Meat	chap (or bien ba dokum,

	something to satisfy hunger for meat)
Oil	munei
Onion	duyim d'orkat (pl= oyim orkat)
Onion (trad. type)	duyim (pl= oyim)
Pepper	otoko
Plantain	kakam (pl=bukam)
Rice	desi
Salt	munork
Something	biain (pl=borkor)
Sweet potato	eyo (pl=buyo)
Sweet yam	erim (pl=burim)
Vegetable	iquang (no singular)
Yam	karia (pl=buria)
Cocoyam	kaikpait (pl=bukpait)

4.19 About wild animals Ubangha ichap urum (sing=chap)

Pest/pestsawewet	
Chameleon	okongha
Scorpion	ikpenyin
Spider	okumankpa (pl=nokumamkpa)
Glow worm	orukutorng
Millipede	enuum (pl=bunuum)
Centipede (pl= binumankonkon)	kinumankonkon
Snake	enu
Python	ekeng

Black mamba	ekoort
Viper	doorworm
Blue duiker	inen (pl=munen)
Antelope	enop (pl=bunop)
Red duiker	enom (pl=bunon)
Water chevrotain	yiut (pl=miut)
Baboon	ekpork (pl=bukpork)
Bush dog	kornornoi (pl=bunornoi)
Bush pig	inyenyei urum (urum meaning
bush) (pl=munyenyei)	
Chimpanzee	konou (pl=bunou)
Drill	etoom (pl=butoom)
Buffalo	ewooka (pl=buwooka)
Elephant	enyi (pl=bunyi)
Gorilla	ekpoor
Leopard	ekwe (pl=bukwe)
Long-snouted crocodile	chiong (pl=biong)
Mongoose	imbiet (pl=mumbiet)
Monitor lizard	uran (pl=naran)
Monkey	ewok (pl=buwok)
Red colobus	konumwok (pl=bunumwok)
Pangolin	yang (pl=miang)
Porcupine	chiop (pl=biop)
Giant pangolin	kakaka (pl=bukaka)
Potto	kabia (pl=bubia)
Rat	ekpaii (ikpaii)
Giant rat	ewoort (pl=buwoort)
Cane rat	morni nyam (pl=bumorni nyam)
Squirrel	inwa (pl=munwa)
Tortoise	kuun (pl=buun)
Tree hyrax	kekpain (pl=bukpain)

Short-snouted crocodile	kawa (pl=buwa)
Long-snouted crocodile	choong
Otter	ikuyoork
Frog	ansang
Bull frog	ekpukpu a diet

4.20 About fish (sing=ekwem)

Crab	andon (pl=bundon)
Crayfish	dunchai (pl=bunchai)
Electric fish	dokui (pl=nokui)
Golden barb	okoroni (pl=nokoroni)
Mud fish	dunkon (pl=bunkon)
Tilapia	i nken (pl=munken)

Ubangha bukwem

4.21 About birds (sing=itort)

Clock bird	itort a kakam (pl=muntort ma bukam)
Monkey-eating eagle	enyam (pl=bunyam)
Guinea fowl	kenweng (benweng, when giving a specific number/ “bunweng” for unspecified)
Hawk	ikpor (pl=mumkpor)
Palm bird	itork ekai (mutort m’ekai)
Parrot	irum/idum (pl=mundum)
Pigeon (wild)	ibubui
Song bird	orkorng

Ubangha muntort

Sunbird
swallow
Weaver bird
Wood pecker
Hornhill

osairai (pl=naisairai)
orfebere
isosoki (pl=munsosoki)
okumambok
ekoorn

4.22 About body cover

Feathers
Hooves
Horns
Quills
Scales
Skin
Slime

Ubangha ankpiya bekeit

munkoko (sing=dukoko)
mumbaat (sing=imbaat)
iyik (sing=duyik)
bukang (sing=kakang)
bukwop (sing=kokwop)
choop
ikpork

4.23 About hunting

Carbide
Carbide lamp
Cartridge/bullet
Fence
Gun
Hole
Night hunting
Pit
Spear
Wire

Ubangha utaip

Kabai
dion da eyang
orborn
koorm
dion
doboki/ubok
eyang
erork
orsaam
waya

4.24 About insects (sing=kantak)

Bee
Butterfly
(pl= nenkenenken)
Dragonfly
(pl= bimam ba ben)

Grashopper
(pl=nafanganfoot)

Housefly
Mosquito
(pl=owingnwing)

Mud wasp
Preying mantis

Sandfly
Midge
Tse-tse fly
(pl= buchikinyam)

Wasp (like mud wasp,
also in house)
Wasp (motsly in the wild)
Cockroach

Ubangha buntak

soi
onkenenken

kimam ka ben

orfanganfoot

esing (pl=busing)
dunwingnwing

intongho
ekoona
itork (pl=muntork)
dufufuk (pl=ofufuk)
kichikinyam

imbot (pl=mumbot)

inanong (pl=munanong)
inkene

4.25 About domestic Ubangha buruki (sing=eruki) animals

Cat angwha (*m*=orom~, *f*=orman~;
pl=nangwha)
Cow eworm (*m*= orom~,
f=orman~;pl=buworm)

Dog	ebia (<i>m</i> =orom~, <i>f</i> =orman~;
pl=bubia)	
Fowl	unorn (<i>m</i> =orom~,
<i>f</i> =orman~; pl=nornorn)	
Goat	ebon (<i>m</i> =orom~, <i>F</i> =orman~;
pl=bubon)	
Pig	nyainyaii a okat (<i>m</i> =orom~,
<i>f</i> =orman~; pl=munyenyei)	
Sheep	enami (<i>m</i> =orom~, <i>f</i> =orman~;
pl=bunami)	

4.26 About school

Biology
Physics
Chemistry
Geography
History
English
French
Literature
Mathematics
Book
Chalk
Enlightenment
Learning

Ubangha enor a nkwet

(pl=inor a nkwet)

dukpewi da ichap
dukpewi da borkor ba bukei
dukpewi da kemika
dukpewi da kaibain
mbuk a kpain
Dukat
Dufrench
buyairi ba neke
Ibat
nkwet
chork
dekwem
dukpewi

Paper

kobobiri (ka nkwet)
(pl=bubobiri ba nkwet)

Pen

inaii a nkwet
(literally=book's stick;

Pencil

pl=munaii ma nkwet)

inaii a nkwet

(literally=book's stick;

pl=munaii ma nkwet)

Pupil/Student

kwen ankwet (pl=ben ba

nkwet)

School

enor a nkwet (pl=inor

ankwet)

Sheet (of paper)

kobobiri

Subjects

buna ba dukpewi

Teacher

adutaina (pl= badutaina)

Teaching

dutaina

4.27 About land, forest and farm

Ubangha bukei, urum na dookon

Basket

kobom (pl=bubom)

Basket (long type)

mansai (pl=bumansai???)

Bundle

dobok (pl=nobok) ???

Bundle (e.g. of thatch)

dubeng (e.g.dubeng d'ekai)

Canopy

dookuut

Farm

dookon

Chop farm

ekpang

New farm

ikei

Club

komkpon (pl=bunmkpon)

Cutlass

idiaii

Digging fork

ekoro a nenen (pl=bukoro ba

nenen)

Farm

dokon

Grass

karam (pl= -)

Jungle

urum a korborm

Ladder	batake (pl=natake)
Secondary forest	kenemi
Sheath	dubor
Spade/shovel/Hoe	ekoro (pl=bukoro)
Spear	osam (pl=nasam)
Stick	kainaii (pl=bainaii)
Sword	akparan ja
Thatch	dukakai (pl=ekai)
Tree	kenaii
Branch	kaana (pl=buna), or kanari (pl=bunari, of palm)
Leaf	duquang (pl=iquang)
Virgin forest	urum anyen

4.28 About farming operations

Ubangha iwom a ekpang

Clearing	duneiri
Felling	dioka
Burning	duwou
Hoeing	dunwerp (lit=digging)
Planting	etoowa
Slashing	dusei
Weeding	dusobiri

4.29 About days/time (sing=daikwai)

Ubangha ikwai na ini

Morning	kito
Afternoon	kabat
Evening	koori

Night	dei
Christmas	Diet
Month	uyei
New Year	Obufa a Diet (the stand-alone “a” is not pronounced)
Week	okum
Year	diet

4.30 About weather

Ubangha daikwai

Sky	echong a bukei
Air	ewweep
Breeze	ewweep
Cloud/fog	eruung
Cold	bioi
Heat	kortortort
Lightning	duwewei
Rain	mini
Rain cloud	eruung a mini
Rainbow	duyik da echong (lit=horn of the sky)
Raininess	orip
Storm	ebeb
Thunder	duwam
Wind	ofufung

4.31 About the sky

Ubangha echong a dubut

Moon	uye
Rising sun	eyo a kito
Setting sun	eyo a kori
Star	iyoyoni (pl=munyoyoni)
Sun	dukwaing

4.32 About physical features

Ubangha borko ba urum

River	orkpa (pl=nakpa)
Lake	orkpa fururu (lit=round river;
Spring	duchaii da ubok (lit=hole
stream) (pl= ichaii ubok)	
Stream	duchaii (pl=ichaii)
pl=nakpa nafururu)	
Current	kosusuwi
Eddy current	eriik
Tide	awawa
Mountain/hill	yhion (pl=myhion)
Valley	obereng (pl=nebereng)
Rock	inani
Stone	unaan
Gravel	orwak
Sand	usani
Mud	nortorp
Swamp	mbaat

4.33 About travel

Accident
Bag
Box
Crawling/Creeping
Dance
Death
Dream
Fall
Handbag
Heaviness
Injury
Lightness
Nightmare
Play
Power
Scar
Sleep
Staggering
Strength
Tiredness
Travel bag
duseeng)
Wake-keeping
Wound

Ubangha duseeng

asiren
ekpa (pl=bukpa)
okebe
dukakiri
kornorm
dukwo
durau
ebom
ekpaubor (pl=bukpa b'ubor)
burou
unan
buebi
obaii a durau
durum
uduru
kamaat
durau
dutaru
bukorn baikait
kakpai
ekpa duseeng (pl=bukpa ba
kaiyaim
ikuka

4.34 About sports

Exercise
Ball
Dancing

Ubangha esais

esais
borl
kochou

Fight/war	enork
Flying	dubebiri
High jump	ikit
Running	kenweye
Swimming	duchork
Walking	duseeng

4.35 About occupations Ubangha iwom

Blacksmith	ebariba
Builder	abukormi
Building	bukormi
Carpenter	kabinta
Craftsman	abuka
Craftsmanship	buka
Driver	adubung
Driving (also drive)	dubung
Engineer	injinia
Farmer	ansai nookon
Farming	duwom da nookoon
Fisherman	abukoi
Fishing	bukoi
Hunter	atutaip
Hunting	Utaip
Lawyer	dorya
Medical doctor	dorktor
Military man	orne ita
Nurse	nors
Policeman	ambin ita
Soldier	orne enork
Teacher	adutaina
Teaching	dutaina

Writer	abuyairi
Writing	buyairi

4.36 About materials	Ubangha borkor ba bukei
Rubber/plastic	orkpor
Tin/Zinc	tian
Iron	kokpokpo
Earth	bukei
Wood	kainaii
Leather	choop

4.37 About environmental problems	Ubangha nfina a urum
Deforestation	duchorkiri d'urum
Soil erosion	dukora da bukei
Land degradation	dubou da bukei
Soil impoverishment	dubiabiri da bukei
Water scarcity	unap a mini
Water pollution	durekeri da mini
Animal depopulation	unap ichap
Species extinction	duhunini da borkor ba urum
Dutort da kaibain	global warming

4.38 Singular	Plural
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Some words form their plurals by dropping the first vowel or second vowel and the preceding consonant and replacing these with bu, as follows:

Kaana (branch)	<u>Buna</u>
Echor (snail)	<u>Buchor</u>
Keque (thorn/fish bone)	<u>Buque</u>
Ekwe (leopard/trad. Society)	<u>Bukwe</u>
Karia (yam)	<u>Buria</u>
Etom (drill)	<u>Butom</u>
Kotoma (container)	<u>Butoma</u>
Ekpang (farm)	<u>Bukpang</u>
Kekpait (cocoyam)	<u>Bukpait</u>
Kochiok (crowned eagle)	<u>Buchiok</u>
Kaiyin (civet cat)	<u>Buyin</u>
Enkei (white-nosed monkey)	<u>Bunkei</u>
Kenemi (secondary forest)	<u>Bunemi</u>
Ebia (dog)	<u>Bubia</u>
Kornorngba (bed)	<u>Bunorngba</u>
Ekwem (fish)	<u>Bukwem</u>
Enyi (elephant)	<u>Bunyi</u>
Ewok (monkey)	<u>Buwok</u>
Ewooka (buffalo)	<u>Buwooka</u>
Esing (fly)	<u>Busing</u>
Kichikinyam (tse-tse fly)	<u>Buchikinyam</u> (pl=bichiki- nyam, specific number of; buchikinyam, unspecified number)
Ekikere (thought)	<u>Bukikere</u>
Ekpere (wild yam)	<u>Bukpere</u>
Erang (louse)	<u>Burang</u>
Kormkpork (lizard)	<u>Bunkpork</u>
Korsorwa (chair)	<u>Busorwa</u>
Kornornoi	<u>Bunornoi</u>
Kantak (insect)	<u>Buntak</u>
Ekeem (bat)	<u>Buke'em</u>

Kankpam-beket (arrogance)	<u>B</u> ukpam-beket
Duntonini (worm)	<u>B</u> untonini

Others with ba:

Amene (father)	<u>B</u> amene
Ama (mother)	<u>B</u> ama
Ata utaip (hunter)	<u>B</u> ata utaip
Orkat (whiteman)	<u>B</u> akat/Nakat
Orkpa (an ejagham person)	<u>B</u> akpa
Ntem (a mate)	<u>B</u> antem

Others either by replacing the first vowel with be or adding b before it:

Orne (human)	<u>B</u> ene
Kween (child)	<u>B</u> een
Orom (husband)	<u>B</u> orom
Atoon (wife)	<u>B</u> atoon
Ornerom (man)	<u>B</u> ornerom
Ornaton (woman)	<u>B</u> ornatom
Ama (mother)	<u>B</u> ama
Amene (father)	<u>B</u> amene
Akwai (queen)	<u>B</u> akwai
Orborn (king/chief)	<u>B</u> orborn
Ornorm (a beauty)	<u>B</u> ornorm

Others with i:

Chap (meat)	<u>I</u> chap
Enor (house)	<u>I</u> nor
Duquang (leaf)	<u>I</u> quang
Dutang (rib)	<u>I</u> tang
Dunang (stick from palm)	<u>I</u> nang
Durik (rope)	<u>I</u> rik

Ekpaii (rat)	<u>I</u> kpaii
Duchaii (stream)	<u>I</u> chaii
Duyik (horn)	<u>I</u> yik
Uworn (leg)	<u>I</u> worn
Ubor (hand)	<u>I</u> bor

Others by replacing the above with mun, as follows:

Iyoyoni (star)	<u>Mun</u> yoyoni
Inyainyaii (pig)	<u>Mun</u> yainyaii
Ingwha (squirrel)	<u>Mun</u> gwha
Itork (midge)	<u>Mun</u> tork
Itort (bird)	<u>Mun</u> tort
Iwon (a fly-like insect)	<u>Mun</u> won
Durek (jaw)	<u>Mun</u> dek
Itum (door)	<u>Mun</u> tum
Inaii (money)	<u>Mun</u> aii
Kanai (abuse/insult)	<u>Mun</u> ai
Inornoi (finger/toe)	<u>Mun</u> ornoi
Imbiet (mongoose)	<u>Mun</u> biet
Inen (blue duiker)	<u>Mun</u> en

Others with na:

Angwha (cat)	<u>Nan</u> gwha
Ansang (frog)	<u>Nan</u> sang
Ayang (broom)	<u>Nan</u> yang
Anyam (trad. Society)	<u>Nan</u> yam
Orsam (living room/hall)	<u>Nan</u> sam
Usan (bowl/plate)	<u>Nan</u> san

Others either by replacing the first consonant or/and first vowel with na or n:

Orkpa (river)	<u>N</u> akpa
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Daria (food)	<u>N</u> aria
Uran (monitor lizard)	<u>N</u> aran
Bian (medicine)	<u>N</u> an
Anyri iwon (a trousers)	<u>N</u> anyiri iworn

Chapter 5

Pronouns – Bambantainaniin (Sing=Ambantainaniin)

5.1 Introduction

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun. Pronouns can be divided into personal (those that stand for nouns), reflective (those that make reference to or reflect a noun), and possessive (those that show ownership). **Bambantainaniin** literally means “those that replace or stand for those that denote names”.

5.2 Personal pronouns

I	N/M
You	A (pl=/bu)
We	I
They	be
She	O/Or
He	O/Or
It	Bu
Me	Mmi
You	Ngo (pl=Mbon)
Us	Ibon
Them	Mbe
Her	Mmorng/Aye
Him	Mmorng/Aye
It	Mbor

5.3 Various forms of the pronoun “it”

It should be noted that the pronoun “it” can take various forms, depending on what it refers to, as shown below:

Beginning letters	Referent	Pronoun
ba, be, bi, bo, bu	Biain (something) Bunang (fufu) Busorwa (chairs)	mbor
ch, e	Chaap (an animal/a piece of meat) Enyi (an elephant) Etom (a drill) Chioop (a porcupine)	nchor
da, de, do, du	Dukam (plantain) Duborn (kingship) Durik (a rope)	ndor
I	Ichon (a nose) Itort (a bird) Irum (a parrot)	nyor
a, o, or, u	Unorn (a fowl) Orkem (palm wine)	nquor
ka, ko, ke	Korsowa (chair) Karam (grass) Kakam (plantains)	nkor
Mu, mi	Munei (money) Munei (oil) Mini (water)	mmor

5.4 Possessive pronouns *change slightly according to the noun, as can be seen below:*

Signal Noun	Pronoun				
	<i>My/Min e</i>	<i>Your / Yours</i>	<i>Our/ Ours</i>	<i>Their / Their s</i>	<i>His/Her/It s; His/Hers/I ts</i>
Ayang (broom)	omi	ongo	obon	ormbe	ormorng
Atoon (wife)	baimi	baing o	baibon	bembe	bemorng
Baikait (body)					
Been (children)	bumi	bungo	bubon	bumbe	bumorng
Biain (something)					
Bukpait (cocoyams)					
Dariab 'food/feed)	daimi	daing o	daibon	dembe	demorng
Deeyen (plum)					
Dona (fireplace)					
Doronghi (backyard)					
Diin (name)	Dimi	dingo	dibon	dimbe	dimorng
Dion (gun/fire)	Dumi	dungo	dubon	dumbe	dumorng
Dunyor (face)					
Edising (knife)	aimi	aingo	aibon	embe	emorng
Ekpa (bag)					
Ekpang (farm)					
Enor (house)					
Chaap (mea(/animal)					
Idiaii (cutlass)	imi	ingo	ibon	imbe	imorng
Idior (vegetables)					

Ini (time)					
Imet (fuelwood)					
Nasan (plates/bowls)	naimi	naing o	naibon	nembe	nemorng
Neraii (oil palms/pal nuts)					
Neen (eyes)					
Niin (hair/hairs)	nimi	ningo	nibon	nimbe	nimorng
Niyik (horns)					
Kaikpait (cocoyam)	kaimi	kaing o	kaibon	kembe	kemorng
Kaakpaat (foot)					
Kornorngaha (bed)					
Korsorwa (chair)					
Karia (yam)					
Munork (salt)	mumi	mung o	mumbo n	mumb e	mumorng
Munei (oil)					
Tian (tin/zinc/basi n)	kimi	kingo	kibon	kimbe	komorng
Kiriing (long basket)					
Ubor (hand)	umi	ungo	umbon	umbe	umorng
Usan (plate/bowl)					
Uworn (foot)					

When referring to biain (=something), it is followed by “bu”.

My/Mine	bummi
Your/Yours	bungo
Your/Yours	bumbon
Our/Ours	bubon
Their/Theirs	bumbe
Her/Hers	bumorng
His	bumorng
Its	bumorng

When referring to, say, kakam (=plantain), it is followed by “kai/ke”.

My/Mine	kaimi
Your/Yours	kaingo
Our/Ours	kaibon
Their/Theirs	kembe
Her/Hers	kemorng
His	kemorng
Its	kemorng

Irregular forms

Chap: aimi, aingo, aibon, embe, emorng

Kwen: omi, ongo, obon, ormbe, ormorng

Nsangha: aimi, aingo, aibon, embe, emorng

5.5 Practice

I am coming
 You are coming
 You are coming (pl)
 We are coming
 They are coming

Dukpewi

N quai-quai
 A quai-quai
 Bu quai-quai
 I quai-quai
 Be quai-quai

She is coming
He is coming
It is coming
I have come

You have come
You have come (pl)
We have come
They have come
She has come
He has come
It has come
Teach me
Let him teach you
Let him teach you (pl)
Help us
Send them
Give her/her advice
Send him/her away
Beat it
My books
They are mine
Your books
They are yours
They are yours (pl)
Our books
They are ours
Their books
They are theirs
Her books
They are hers
His books

O quai-quai
O quai-quai
Bu quai-quai
Tah n quai (it should be noted
that the “tah” can be dropped)
Tah a quai
Tah bu quai
Tah i quai
Tah be quai
Tah o quai
Tah o quai
Tah bu quai (i.e. something)
Taaina mmi
Nik o taaina ngo
Nik o taaina mbon
Yangha ibon
Num mbe
Chang aye itaim
Sim aye
Quop mbor
Bunkwet bummi
Bure bummi
Bunkwet bungo
Bure bungo
Bure bumbon
Bunkwet bubon
Bure bubon
Bunkwet bumbe
Bure bumbe
Bunkwet bumornng
Bure bumornng
Bunkwet bumornng

They are his
Its books
They are its
His yams
My container
Their dog
His bird
Her salt
Its rope
Our food
Our pot
My zinc

Bure bumorng
Bunkwet bumorng
Bure bumorng
Buria bumorng
Kotoma kaimi
Ebia embe
Itort imorng
Munork mumorng
Durik dumorng
Daria daibon
Dorkorng debon
Tian kimi

Chapter 6

Adjectives – Bamtainaranghure (Sing=Antainaranghure)

6.1 Introduction

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Put simply, it is a descriptive word or word that describes. **Bamtainaranghure** literally means “those that denote or describe what it looks like”.

Strong	ankorn	
Lazy	ambiani	
Weak/Slow	amkporkor	
Fast	amfara	
Big	ikpor/ankang	
Small	andiom (also used as	
noun)/buriki		
New (of something)	obufa	
Old (of something)		onum
Young		kwonochorn
Old/Elderly		ornenum
White		ambori
Black		ambini
Red		andon
Heavy	burowi-	
rou/erowi-rou		
Light		bufebi-febi/
efebi-febi		
Beautiful	bunorminorm/	

benorminorm	
Ugly	obei
Bad	bubiabi-
biab/	
ebiabi-biab	
Foolish	ambei (as
qualifier)/	
a bei (as direct	
insult)	
Stupid	ansiya/
ansime (as	
qualifier)/	
a siya/sime	
Fried (e.g. fried fish)	duchom (e.g.
ekwem a	
duchom)	
Roast (e.g. roast fish)	duwou (e.g.
ekwem as	
duwou)	
Boiled (e.g. boiled plantain)	dusorba (e.g.
kakam ka	
dusorba)	
Polatable	bu neke-
neke/	
de neke-neke	
Sweet	bu nyenge-
yenge /	
ke nyenge-	
yenge	
Bitter	oseki-seki/
bu seki-seki /	
ke seki-seki	

Sour
ke ka-kai

bu ka-kai /

Hot
tort/betori-tort

butori-

Cold
neu/
denewi-neu

bunewi-

Open/bare

forng

Naked

bunchokoro

Finished

u chun

The word “only” changes according to number forms: e.g.

i) ***mbornambor*** (as in buni and other nouns and noun types beginning with “b”);

ii) ***nchornanchor*** (as in chaini and other nouns beginning with “ch”, “ech”, and “e”);

iii) ***nyornanyor*** (as in nyini and other nouns beginning with “i”);

iv) ***ndornandor*** (as in deni and duni and other nouns beginning with “d”);

v) ***nquornanquor*** (as in quni and quoni and other nouns beginning with “q”, “o”, “n”, “u”);

vi) ***nkornankor*** (as in keni and kini and other nouns beginning with “k”, and “t”).

6.2 Practice

Whichever child is lazy
it is difficult for him/her
to make it/prosper

Dukpewi

Ekeriri a kwen or bianini
ure kang-kang orba buut
usene/ bien

We like to eat boiled
plantain

I ya u dia kakam ka
dusorba

She like red clothes

Or ya andon ita

I like something beautiful

N ya bien bunormi-norm

I don't like something that
is bad

N yani biain bubiabi-biab

It is good to eat palatable
food

U nomi u dia daria
neke-neke

Hot food is good to eat
morni u dua

Daria detori-tort de

Cold food is not good
for health normi a beket
body)

Daria denewi-neu de
(for the

Bitter-leaf is bitter

Otou-ese or seki

Sugar is sweet Suka or nyenghe

The bag is too heavy
for that child

Ekpa chior e rowi kpai
na kwen kwor

Look, he is carring
a light bag

Ket, mornng or nwama
ekpa efebi-febi

I have not seen such
an ugly woman

N na ning utakwo obaii
ornaton

He is a fast runner Ore amfara kenweye

The child is a slow walker Kwen kwor ore amkporkor
duseeng

The banana is very sweet Banana kwo or nyenge
eti-eti

She is a small woman Ore andiom ornaton

He is a fat man Ore ankang ornairom

He is a strong person Ore ankorn baikait

Chapter 7

Verbs – Bambekosai (Sing=Ambekosai)

7.1 Introduction

A verb is a word that gives command or expresses an action. There are some verbs that are described as auxillary verbs by virtue of the fact that they neither give commands nor express actions but help merely in both, for example: is, are, etc. **Bambekosai** literally means “those that ask to do”.

7.1 Auxxillary verbs

Be/Am/Is/Are	de
Was/Were	tare
Able/Can (you)	a keme
Will (you)	a ka
(You) must/have/have to	a chorm

7.2 Action verbs

Do	sai
Come	quai
Go	kaik
Stand	baat
Sit	saa
Put/put on/wear	korn (but “china” when it comes

Sleep	to wrapping/tying a cloth)
Lie	daat
Wake/wake up	nornggha
Eat	buki
Crawl/creep	dia
Walk	kak
Stagger	seeng
Run	tara
Kneel	ngwei
Squat	kaka (norom)
Jump	toka
Fly	dama
Somersault	bebe
Climb	duki
Climb down	Bait
Fall	kpaira
Kick/sting	nor
Kill	maan
Die	chion
Land/fall	Kwa
Push	Nor
Learn/study	Soorba
Know	kpewi
Drive	dor/understand
Drive away	bung
Paddle	sima
Swim	bung
Float	chork
Sink	fioror
Dive	deng
Submerge	diimi
	norba/noorba

Get lost	diim
Find/see	ning
Weed	sorp
Wash	choi
Wipe/clean	quuni
Litter	neep
Sweep	kwei
Scatter	sat
Gather	mornghene
Bolt	kpangha
Be	wisedor biain (meaning “know something”)
Be clever	korn nen
Be kind/good	norm esin
Be bad/evil	biab esin
Think/reason	kere (e.g. tum tere, meaning
think/reason well)	
Remember/remind	koni
Talk/speak	tang
Shout	chok
Swear	taika
Sweer (juju)	tangha
Pray	borng (usually followed by “akam” e.g. borng akam)
Curse	tem
Abuse/slight	nai
Sing	chorn
Cough	chorngghi (korngha)
Happen	tibe
Let it/him/them, etc.	nik/dimi
Leave (something)	nik

Leave (a place)	tung/bari
Stop	nik/dimi
Finish	chuna
Return (e.g. home)	yen
Return (give back)	tuna
Give	chang
Take	kor (bya giver)
Take	nami (by a receiver or an onlooker)
Refuse	sin
Beg/Apoloigise	kpe
Handle/care	mort
Bring up	sit
Peel	kpoi (with accent on “i”)
Vomit	kpoi (with accent on “kp”)
Slice (e.g. onion)	chek
Own	chorma
Play	dum
Dance	chou
Discuss	neme
Call	kona
Shout	choka
Sleep	daat
Celebrate	dara
Lie	norngha
Come here	quai ndaing
Stand up	buki baat
Sit down	saa a bukei
Go away	seeng kaik
Get out	kaik ndor/seeng kaik ndor
Wait	boornng
Rest/relax	deek

To spend the day doing nothing productive	kwait
Start	ntorngbor
End/stop	tire
Meet	nenene
Fear/Avoid	kworn
Respect	kpono
Look	ket
See	ning
Hear/taste/perceive	kpang
Smell	duuma/ruuma
Touch	kpuki
Cut	kpa
Clear (e.g. throat)	kpari (kort/korngba)
Remove (clothes from meaning a line/under the sun)	kpari (opposite=kpara, spread out or hang)
Clear (to cut)	neh
Slash	sei
Burn	wuou
Roast	wuou
Singe	cheri
Fry	choom
Boil (e.g. plantain)	sorba (with accent on “so”)
Dig	nweb
Push	sorba (with accent on “ba”)
Pull	bima
Drag	bim
Fight	nuu
Open (the door)	chuki
Open (e.g. a box)	kpaii

Destroy	bowa
Delay	bowa ini
Fix/repair	toni
Make/manufacture	toonii
Laugh	seek
Frown	ruuri
Cry	woong
Smile	muuma
Wound	kuka/kuuka
Hate	yain
Love	yau (use “ya” when you want to express it, e.g. “N ya ngo”, “I love you”; but someone else will “yau”, e.g. “yau aye”, meaning “love him/her”)
Thank/greet	chaina
(Let it) happen	(nik u) tibe
Deceive	tikere
Cheat	moi
Outsmart	yorp
Steal	chu
Tie (to tie)	korm
Weave	nu
Fight	nu
Plait	bork
Reveal	kpam
Split	kpam
Split (e.g. wood)	ngweek
Break (e.g. stick)	ngween
Break (repeatedly)	ngwek
Break (e.g. a glass)	biaan
Eat	dia

Swallow	men (e.g. medicine/spittle)/meen (e.g. fufu)
Crack	nem
Conk	mora
Knock	mora
Hit (e.g. nail)	mora
Nail	moort
Uproot	muki
Climb	bait
Climb (climb or be carried on someone's back)	kaka/kaka-kaka
Climb/get down	kpaira
Don't	kpara
Don't you	akpara

7.3 Tenses

The following are tenses in the simple present, simple past, present continuous, present perfect, and future. It should be noted that in normal conversation the pronouns are dropped the sentences start from the auxilliary verbs. The simple present tense and simple past tense are the same.

Simple present and past tense		
Main pronouns	Variant Pronoun	Active Verbs
Ibon (We)	I (We)	quai (come/came)
Mbe (They)	Be (They)	norngha (sleep/slept)
Mmorng (She/He)	Or/O (He/She)	sa (sits/sat)
Mmi (I)	N (I)	dia (eat/ate)
Ngo (You) (in singular)	A (You)	seeng (walk/walked)
Mbon (You) (in plural)	Bu (You)	maak (kick/kicked)
Mbor (It)	Bu (It)	baat (stands/stood)

Present continuous tense		
Main pronouns	Variant Pronoun/ Auxiliary verbs	Active Verbs
Ibon (We)	I (We are)	quai-quai (coming)
Mbe (They)	Be (They are)	nornornng (sleeping)
Mmorng (She/He)	Or/O (He/She is)	sorsou (sitting)
Mmi (I)	N (I am)	dia-dia (eating)
Ngo (You) (in singular)	A (You are)	seseeng (walking)
Mbon (You) (in plural)	Bu (You are)	makamak (kicking)
Mbor (It)	Bu (It is)	babaat (standing)

Present perfect tense, past perfect tense and future perfect tense		
Main pronouns	Variant Pronoun/Auxiliary verbs	Active Verbs
Ibon (We)	Ta i (We have/had/will have)	quai (come)
Mbe (They)	Ta be (They have/had/will have)	nornggha (slept)
Mmorng (She/He)	Ta or/o (He/She has/had/shall have)	sa (sat)
Mmi (I)	Ta n (I have/had/will have)	dia (eaten)
Ngo (You) (in singular)	Ta a (You have/had/will have)	seeng (walked)
Mbon (You) (in plural)	Ta bu (You have/had/will have)	maak (kicked)
Mbor (It)	Ta bu (It has/had/will have)	baat (stood)

Simple future tense		
Main pronouns	Variant Pronoun/Auxiliary verbs	Active Verbs
Ibon (We)	I ka (We shall)	quai (come)
Mbe (They)	Be ka (They will)	nornggha (sleep)
Mmorng (She/He)	Or/O ka (He/She shall)	sa (sit)
Mmi (I)	N ka (I shall)	dia (eat)
Ngo (You) (in singular)	A ka (You will)	seeng (walk)
Mbon (You) (in plural)	Bu ka (You will)	maak (kick)
Mbor (It)	Bu ka (You shall)	baat (stand)

Future perfect continuous tense		
Introductory clause	Pronoun/Auxiliary Verbs	Active Verbs
Utor ini nyi diyain (By this time tomorrow)	ta i ki (We will have been)	quai-quai (coming)
	ta be ki (They will have been)	nornornng (sleeping)
	ta or/o ki (She/He shall have been)	sorsou (sitting)
	ta n ki (I will have been)	dia-dia (eating)
	ta a ki (You will have been)	seseeng (walking)
	ta bu ki (You will have been)	makamak (kicking)
	ta bu ki (It will have been)	babaat (standing)

7.4 “i”, “bai”, “or/o”, “n”, “a”, and “bu” have come to be used to mean the following:

I	We, We are
Bai	They, We are
Or/O	He/She, He/She is
N	I, I am
A	(Singular) You, You are
Bu	(Plural) You, You are
Bu (but this can take various forms)	It, It is

7.5 “Will” and “Will Not”

Noun	Pronoun	Will	Will Not	Active Verb
Biain (something)	bu	ka	di	tibe (happen)
Bunang (fufu)				neke (tasty)
Busorwa (chairs)				nweke (break)
Enyi (an elephant)	e			ngwei (run)
Etom (a drill)				bait (climb)
Chiop (a porcupine)				Nwep (dig)
Dukam (plantain)	du			korn (strong)
Duborn (kingship)				norm (fine/peaceful)
Durik (a rope)				kuwi (short)
Ichon (a nose)	i			maba (block)
Itort (a bird)				bebe (fly)
Irum (a parrot)				tang (talk)
Orkem (palm wine)	or			nyenghe (sweet)
Orne (a person)				quai (come)
Unorn (a fowl)				toya (peck)
Nornorn	ne			toi (peck)
Bene	be			quai (come)
Korsowa (chair)	ke			ngween (break)
Karam (grass)				num (grow)
Kakam (plantains)				nou (fall)
Munaii (money)	mun			chun (finish)
Munei (oil)				changhi (dry out)
Mini (water)				tort (get hot)

7.6 Positive and Negative Statements

Noun	Is/are	Positive Verb	Negative Verb
Biain (something)	bu (is/are)	tibe (happening)	tiberi (not happening)
Bunang (fufu)		neke (tasty)	nekeri (not tasty)
Busorwa (chairs)		ngweke (breaking)	ngwekeri (not breaking)
Enyi (an elephant)	e (is)	ngwei (running)	ngwei (not running)
Etom (a drill)		baira (climbing)	beiri (not climbing)
Chiop (a porcupine)		nwebe (digging)	nwebi (not digging)
Dukam (plantain)	du (is)	korni (strong)	korni (not strong)
Duborn (kingship)		normi (fine/peaceful)	nor'mi (not fine/peaceful)
Durik (a rope)		kuwiri (short)	kuwiri (not short)
Ichon (a nose)	i (is)	maba (blocked)	ibiri maba (not blocked)
Itort (a bird)		bebiri (flying)	beberi (not flying)
Irum (a parrot)		tangha (talking)	tanghi (not talking)
Orkem (palm wine)	or/o (is)	nyenghe (sweet)	nyengheni (not sweet)
Orne (a person)		quai (coming)	quaini (not coming)
Unorn (a fowl)	u (is)	toi (pecking)	to'i (not pecking)
Nornorn (fowls)	ne (are)	bebiri (flying)	bebiri (not flying)
Bene (people)	be (are)	quai (coming)	quaini (not coming)
Korsowa (chair)	ke (is)	ngweeni (breaking)	ngweeni (not breaking)
Karam (grass)		numa (growing)	numi (not growing)
Kakam (plantain)		nor (falling)	norni (not falling)
Munaii (money)		chuna (finishing)	chuni (not finishing)

Munei (oil)	mun (is)	changhini (drying out)	changhiinii (not drying out)
Mini (water)		tornghor utort (getting hot)	tonghor utort (not getting hot)

7.7 Negatives of command words

Command words in Durorp are often given negative responses by reworking them to end with “i” so that they now mean “do not”, “does not”, and “will not”. It could also mean “am not”, is not or are not, in which case although the negative responses remain the same in Durorp they should be changed to reflect continuous tense in English, as applicable. It should be noted that this formula applies also to adjectives (e.g. neke/nekeri) ‘and adverbs (e.g. fara/farari). For words whose spellings of positive and negative types are the same, these are differentiated by accents, with the positive ones having theirs on the first consonant and the negative ones on the last consonant, e.g. “biabi” (bad) becomes “bia’bi” (not bad).

Command word	Pronoun	Negative response
Keme (can/able)	N (I)	kemeni (cannot/unable)
Dia (eat)		diani (will not eat)
Que (Come)		queni (will not come)
Tang (talk/speak)		tanghi (will not talk)
Sei (do)		saini (will not do)
Daat (sleep)		daari (will not sleep)
Yait (write/draw)		yairi (will not write/draw)
Taina (show)		tenani (will not show)
Nyi (go)	A (sing) (you)	nyini (will not go)
Yeen (return)		yeeni (will not return)
Men (swallow/drink)	Bu (pl) (you)	meni (will not swallow/drink)
Maan (kick)	I (we)	maani (will not kick)
Chuki (open)		chukiri (will not open)
Chaina (thank)	Be (they)	chainani (will not thank)
Daya (lick)		dayari (will not lick)
Kaik (go)	O/Or (she/he)	kaiki (will not go)
Chou (dance)		chowi (will not dance)
Chorn (sing)	Bu (it)	chorni (will not sing)
Baa (take/marry)		Baani (will not take/marry)

7.8 Practice

Dukpewi

Lie down

norngħa a bukei

I know
brackets is redundant)

(Mmi) N dor (what is in

You don't know

(Ngo) A doorni

We know

(Ibon) I dor

You don't know (pl)

(Mbon) Bu doorni

They know

(Mbe) Be dor

He knows

(Mmorng) O dor

She knows

(Mmorng) O dor

It knows

(Mbor) Bu dor

N/B: To say “I don't know” you simply double the “o” and add “ni” to the “dor” (e.g. doorni, which can't stand alone). This rule applies to other such expressions like N kwai=N kwaaini, Or re=Or reeni, U kem=U kemi. But “Don't” as a stand-alone means “kpara”, as in “Don't” or Don't do it”, meaning “Kpara sai.”

Ojom is a man

Ojom or de ornerom

Manfon is a woman

Manfon or de ornaton

You are great people

Bure orkporsorng a bene

Were you like this?	A ta de nyi-dai?
Can you dance? (kornorm)?	A keme uchou
Will you come with me?	A ka quai na mmi?
Will you (prefer/like to be) carried on the back?	Aka Kaaka-kaaka?
You must follow me immediately	A chorm u taba mmi aranghakwo
She is eating	Or dia-dia biain
She has eaten	Tah or dia biain
I love yams	N ya buria
He is digging a hole	Or nwebe doboki
She is weaving a mat	Or nu uboong
She is plaiting her hair	Or borki nin nimorng
They are drinking wine We are drinking water	Be mene munok I choorni mini
They are waiting for us	Be borngbi iboon
Don't break the bottle	Kpara biaan ekpaime chior

Don't break that stick	Kpara ngween kainai kor
Bring the pot here	Baquai dorkorng dor ndaing
Take the food there	Ngwaam kaikne na daria dor ndor
What are you doing here/there?	A sai mung ma/ndor?
Smile with me	Seek na mmi
Be happy with us	Neke esin na iboon
Crack those kernels	Nem ichu nyor
Don't insult me	Kpara nai mmi
Don't hate him/her	Kpara yain aye
Love God with all your heart edomsin aingo	Yau Obasi na kporkpora
Play with them	Duum na mbe
Put on/wear your trousers	Korn anyiri-iworn ongo
Wear your cloth She gave him a conk on the head	Chiina eta aingo Or chang aye imbot a dono

Tell me whether
you are not happy

Tang-chiang mmi bor
a nekeri esin

Let me know if you are
not coming/going to come

Sai mmi ndor ereqwa
a di quai

Chapter 8

Adverbs - Bantainaranghosai (Sing=Antainaranghosai)

8.1 Introduction

An adverb is a word that qualifies an action or a verb. In other words, it describes how an action is carried out. **Bentenaranghosai** literally means “those that denote or show how it does it”.

8.2 Adverbs of manner

Fast/Quickly	fara-fafa
Later/A bit/A little bit	quanaka
Small, small/bit by bit	buriki-buriki
Slowly/Gently	duchorn/ duchorn-
duchorn	
Quickly	wap-wap
Openly	kpororo
Clearly	sai-sai
Abruptly/Unawares	biantum
Red-handed	bunchokoro (lit=naked)
Carelessly	ntume-ntume
Completely/all	kpe-kpe
Equally	ekan-ekan
Secretly/Stealthily	durup- durup

8.3 Adverbs of time

Now/Right now/immedtaley	aranghaquo
Later	kwanaka/ini kwanaka
Long time	anyiri ini
Short time	kwana ini
Shortly	a kwana ini
In the day	na daikwai
In the morning	nakito
In the afternoon	nakabat
In the evening	nakori
In the night/at night:by night	nadei
Today	ndaikwai
Tomorrow/yesterday	diyainikwai
The day after tomorrow	daingdaikwai
The day before yesterday	daingdaikwai
Since	tornghor/
tornghor-tornghor/	siini

8.4 Adverbs of place

(Note that the vowel that immediately follows another is not pronounced but takes the sound of the one it follows:

Behind	iinum
In front	a dunyor
Under	a kornorn
Beside/at the side of	a dubam
Inside	etainghetaing
Outside	utung
Up/on/on top	echong
In the middle	ufort/ufort-ufort

8.5 Practice

Dukpewi

Come here quickly

Fara-fara que ndeng

Run fast

Fara-fara ngwei

Walk fast

Rafa-fara seeng

Speak openly

Tang kpororo

Speak clearly

Tang sai-sai

I caught her red-handed,
that is why she cannot deny it

N kuba aye bunchokoro,
nkwor usai or kemeni ukan

Come back right now

Sibidi quai aranghaquo

Come back later;
I'm a bit tired now
aranghaquo

Sibidi quai quanaka;
N kpai quanaka

Run slowly

Ngwei duchorn duchorn

Climb the tree gently
duchorn

Bait kainai kor duchorn

She walks slowly

Or seeng duchorn duchorn

He kicked me unawares,
which is why I fell

Or mannni mmi biantum,
nkwor usai N nor

The rain fell for so long,
but finally it stopped abruptly

Mmini munorp anyiri ini,
nnagha akpatire-ini mu

neu biantum

He/she arrived at night

O dioni nadei

He arrived a long time ago

O dioni anyiri ini

He/she will come the day after
tomorrow

O ka quai daingdaikwai

He/she came the day before
yesterday

O quai daingdaikwai

He/she shared it equally

O tuki mbor ukem-ukem

He is sitting on top

Or sorsou echong

He is sitting under

Or sorsou kornorn

He is sitting inside

Or sorsou aitaingaitaing

He is sitting in the middle

Or sorsou ufort-ufort

Where have they been since?

Be re mmang siini?

We have been here since morning

I re ma tornghor na kito.

Chapter 9

Prepositions – Bantaineyainore (Sing=Antaineyainore)

9.1 Introduction

A propositon is a word that shows the relationship between a thing or person and a place or another thing or person. Put another way, it shows the position of a pesron or thing in relation to a place, another thing or another person. **Bantaineyainore**literally means “those that denote or show where it is”.

9.2 Examples of prepositions

To/from/At/In/Into/on	a/u
Of	a (pl=ba)
Up/on top of	echong
Under	kornorn
In front of	a dunyor da
Behind	dorbork
Beside	a dubam
In the middle of	ufort/ufort ufort
At the centre	ufort ufort
Here	ndaing/mandai/ma
There	ndor
Inside	eating-etaing
Outside	utung
Beside (e.g. house)	a dubam (adubam
d’enor)	

Beside (e.g. someone)

a dutang (adutang du mmi)

9.3 The use of “this” and “that”

Beginning letters	Referent	This	That
bi	Binun (bile)	bi	bor
kwe	Kwen (child)	quo	quor
Ti	Tian (zinc/tin/basin)	ki	Kor
ba, be, bie, bo, bu	Bien (something) Bunang (fufu) Busorwa (chairs)	bu	bor
ch, e	Chap (an animal/meat) Enyi (an elephant) Etom (a drill) Chiop (a porcupine)	chai	chor
da, de, du	Dukam (plantain) Duborn (kingship) Durik (a rope)	du	dor
i	Ichon (a nose) Itort (a bird) Irum (a parrot)	nyi	nyor
a, o, u	Unorn (a fowl) Unan (wound) Uran (a monitor lizard)	quu	Quor
do	Doronghi (backyard) Dona (fireside)	de	dor

9.4 Practice

Dukpewi

I am going to the market

N nyi a okum

We have come from Church

Ta irik Ereri

She is returning from school

Orika enor ankwet

They are sitting on the floor

Besou a bukei

They are sitting by the river side

Besou a dubam da okpa

The child is up a tree
kainaii

Kwen quo ore echong a

Fruits are ripe up the tree
a kainaii

Echimini e doon echong

This book is on the table
okpokoro

Nkwet che ere echong a

There is a chicken under
the table

Kwen unorn ure kornorn
ka okpokoro

Put the stick beside the house
adumam d'enor

Korn kainaii kor

Manfon is standing beside me
adutang du mmi

Manfon or babaat

God is by my side

Obasi ore a dutang

dummi

We have been here since
morning

Ibare ma tornghor na
kito

Chapter 10

Conjunctions – Bamonghenukwen (Sing=Amonghenukwen)

10.1 Introduction

A conjunction is a word that joins words, clauses, or sentences together. **Bamonghenukwen** literally means “those that join words or sentences”.

10.2 Examples of conjunctions

And	na
With/together with	nna
But	nangha
That	a
So (for that reason)	antak chior
So that	ko
in order that	ko utung
mandior	
Even	nke
Even so/Even then	nke ndior
Unless/Except	tum
Until	kpat
Again	nyenene
Before	ko
Whether/or	bor
If	erekwa
Like	ngha
Perhaps	ncheneruk

Because
 Also/Too
 Therefore/Thus
 Although/even though/though/albeit
 Either...or
 Neither...nor
 Then
 However
 Were it not for...
 Had it not been that...
 Like it or not

antakha
 daing
 antakchior
 nke
 bor
 ko ude
 or ba
 nke ndior
 airaing...asik
 airaing...asik
 ayaya na ayani

10.3 Practice

Me and you

I wanted to come but
 it rained heavily

I was just beginning to count the
 money when he arrived, so I hid it

The dog barks so that
 you are frightened

Dukpewi

Mmi na ngo

N chana u quai
 nangha mini mu
 norp okporsornng

Ini a N
 tornghor-
 tornghor u kuk
 munei mor
 odion quai, a ntak
 chior N duba
 mmor

Ebia e choka ko
 buriem bu kuba
 ngo (caught by
 fright)

It was really late, however,
he insisted on going ahead

aukaik dunyor

She said she will marry me,
unless she has changed her mind
tum or yokere
esin emorng

I will wait until he comes
or quai

It has happened again

He will come again
nyenene

I must work hard N chorm u sai
so that I succeed in lifeduwom

ko utung-
mandior N mbut
biain

I am ill, even then, I will
(follow) come with you
(taba) quai na
ngo

I don't know whether
you will like to come

Daikwai de
nekere kaik,
nke-dior, or baad

Orbeke a morng
or ka ba mmi,

N ka borng kpat

U tibe nyenene

Or ka quai

okporsorng

N morka, nke-
ndior N ka

N dorni bor
a ka yau u quai

Until it ceases to rain, I won't know
what to do norp, N didor
qua N ka sai

Kpat mun tire u

If not for you
I would have been in big trouble
a nfina

Airaing ngo asik
M biri de a ikpor

Had it not been that they came in time,
would have beaten her very well
mbiri quop aye

Ereng be quail
asik aiti ini,

aiti-aiti

Like it or not, you will follow
to the farm today
mmi ekpang
ndaikwai

Ayaya na ayani, me
achorm utaba

He said that he will come
or ka quai

Obeke a mong

I will come because he invited me
antakha okona
mmi

N ka quai

My father will also come
daing oka quai

Amene omi

Perhaps he will not accept to come
baima uquai

Ncheneruk ori

Chapter 11

Exclamation – Bantainakochok (Sing=Antainakochok)

11.1 Introduction

An exclamation is a word that is used to express joy, disappointment, surprise, warning or anger, and is denoted by the sign “!” at the end of it. **Bantenakochok** literally means “those that denote shouting”.

11.2 Examples of exclamations

A sai-o!	Thank you!
Ukem!	Enough!
Ndior!	Exactly!
Inghi!	Sorry!
Mbema!	Agreed!
Kwai nor deket!	Come (you all) and see!
Obasi a echong-aih!	God on high!
Kpiya ingwha!	Shut up!
Neu!	Silence!
Nyenene!	Again!
Tonghor!	Start!
Tire!	Stop!
Baat!	Stand!
Dama!	Jump!
Ukut eh!	High and might!
Chou!	Dance!
Seeng dunyor!	Go ahead!

Biai ibor!	Applaud!
Kpa ikpo!	Ululate!
Omuna!	Lord!
Bari mandio chang mmi!	Forgive me!
Seeng kaik!	Go away!
Kaichim!	(No) noise!
Aih, aih!	(An expression of
disappointment)	
Ekora!	(An expression of
disgust)	
Yowoo!	(An expression of a
misfortune)	
Anhao!	(An expression of
good fortune)	

Chapter 12

Asking Questions – Ubuwi Bumbume

12. 1 Words that's ask questions

What?	mmung?
Where?	mmang?
Why?	ntak a?
Which?	mbuni/ nquoni/ nyini/ ncheni?
Who?	meeng?
Whose?	bameng?
How?	nning?
When?	ini nyini? (meaning “which time?”)
What else?	mmung uruk?
How many/much?	bawang? Munwang/Biwang/ Bawang?
How much?	Munwang/ Kawang/ Iwang?
How many times/How often?	nta orwang?
How much time	Ini iwang?

12.2 “Only”, “Which” and “How much”/ “How many”
change their forms depending on groups of words, as shown
in the table below:

Groups of words	Only?	Which?	Plural for specific number	How much/man y?
biain (one thing)	Mbornambo r?	Mbuni?	borkor	Bawang?
Bekork (a bed)		Mbaini?	bekork	
Korsowa (chair) Kakam (a plantain) Kakang (a quill) Kaikpait (a cocoyam) Kornornggha (a bed) Kantak (an insect) Kainai (a stick) Karia (a yam) Kaana (a branch)	Nkornankor?	Nkaini?	borsowa bakam bakang baikpait bornornggh a bantak bainai baria ba'ana	
Kwen (a child) ornaton (a woman) ornerom (a man) ntem (a friend)	Nquornanqu or?	Nquoni?	ben bornaton bornerom bantem	
Tian (a basin) Kini (an ant)	Nkornankor?	97 Nkini?	bian bini	Biwang?

Chaap (an animal) Echari (a bitter kola) Chioop (a porcupine) Etoom (a drill) Ekpere (a wild yam)	Nchornanch or?	Nchaini?	ichap ichari ichiop itom ikpere	Iwang?
Itum (a door) Ikot (a spoon) Itort (a bird) Inaii (money) Intork (a midge)	Nyornanyor?	Nyini?	muntum munkot muntort munaii muntork	Munwang?
Dona (a fire place) Dabai (a breast) Daikait (a pool) Doronghi (a backyard)	Ndornandor ?	Ndaini?	nona nabai naikait noronghi	Nawang?
Usan (a plate) Utang (a barn) Utoninkang (a lamp) Unaan (a stone) Unan (a wound)	Nquornanqu or?	Nquni?	nasan natang notoninka ng nanaan nanan	
Dukam (a			nikam	

plantain) Dunang (a bamboo stick) Durorp (a language) Dukwang (a leaf)	Ndornandor ?	Nduni?	ninang nirorp nikwang	Niwang?
Nta (number of times)	-	-	nta	Orwang?
Ini (time)	Nyornanyor?	Nyini?	ini	Iwang?

12.3 Practice

Dukpewi

What are you doing now/right now?

Mmung a sai
aranghaquo?

What can you do?

A keme u sai
mmung?

What do you want to do?

A kwaka u sai
mmung?

What do you want to show me?

A kwaka u
taina mmnung
mmi?

What will you send to me?

A ka numa
mmi mmung?

What has brought you happiness today?	Mmung u bakuwai ngo buneku-esin ndaikwai?
What does all this mean?	Kpekpera qwu ubura nning?
What language is that? Durorp ndior?	Mmung
Where are you? Where else shall we meet? nenene mmang?	A re mmang? I kakpe
Why have you come here? ma a?	Ntak a quai
Why are you so happy? esin nyi ndior a?	Ntak a neke
Why is it like that? ndior a?	Ntak ure nyi
Which book belongs to you? nchaini echorm ngo?	Nkwet

Which child is yours?
ore ongo? Kwen nquoni

Which time/when did you arrive/enter here? Ini nnyini a
rioni ma?

Who is that by your side?
a dubam Mmeng ndior
dungo?

Who are you speaking with/talking to? A tangha na
mmeng?

Who actually asked you
to come here? Mmeng or
nekenekere
beke a ngo
a quai ma?

Who will follow me? Mmeng orka
taba mmi?

Who taught you guitar? Mmeng or
kpewere ngo
kita?

How is the guitar played? Be ruma nning
kita?

How is a book written? Nning be yairi
nkwet?

Chapter 13

Idioms – Irorp A Kpain (Sing=Durorp Da Kpain)

13.1 Introduction

An idiom is an indirect reference whose words may have nothing to contribute to its meaning.

13.2 Some common idioms

Idiom	Literal meaning	Interpretation
Or chorm eti a kimbokoro	he/she has a good skull	he/she is intelligent
Or febi ibor	His/her hands are fast	he/she is a thief
Or koni butan ba diat	His/her chinbones are strong	he/she is talkative
Or choom edomsin unoon	He/she has a fowl's heart	he/she is easy to forget or convince
Or re kuun	He/she is a tortoise	he/she is cunning
Or re anfebi esin	He/she is a light-hearted person	he is an easy-going person
Or re antort esin	He/she is a hot-hearted person	he/she is hot tempered person
Or chorm bubot kokot	He/she has a white face	he/she is lucky
Or chorm bubiab kokot	He/she has a bad face	he/she is unlucky
Akurain kainainai	Akurain is clear	an outsider understands the language

Chorngbi korngba	cough	to say something
I re okpokoro	we are at the table	we are eating
U kpai one disaing	to open someone's anus	to reveal one's secret
Utaina orne kankai	-	to teach someone a lesson
Iyeyebi i dani den	imitation bursts the eye	imitation could be dangerous

13.3 Practice

Dukpewi

He/she is an intelligent child

Ore kwen quo or
chorm eti a
kimbokoro

He/she is a thief

Ore anfebi ibor

Manfon is talkative

Manfon okoni butan
ba diat

The man is easy to convince
chorm edomsin unorn

Orneron kwo or

Osere is so cunning

Osere ore kuun

Akparika is an easy-going person
esin

Akparika ore anfebi

Ojong is hot-tempered

Ojong ore antort esin

My child is lucky
bubot kokot

Kwen omi or chorm

The visitor is unlucky;
he/she arrived when we had
cleared the table

Oken kwo or chorm
bubiab kokot; or rioni
ini a I chuna
okpokoro

We asked him whether he I bhu aye bor mmorng
stole the money o chu munai mor
but he did not even cough nnangha nke korngba
obiri chornghi

Practice - Dukpewi

Obasi: Welcome, Sir.

Visitor: Thank you, Mr. Obasi.

Oroka: I greeted before.

Visitor: That's right.

Obasi (*After Visitor has taken his seat*): Ornerom kwo
obaqai nyenene borkor baokum?

Oroka: Ehn. Ita, bunkwet, mumkpakot, munei ba baikait
na ekese a borkor beruk.

Obasi: Ankorn okum a ornerom kwor. Okare nyuuk
nyenene bene ma....

Oroka (*Looking at Obasi straight in the eyes*): Akurain
kainainai.

(Obasi looks away uneasily and shuts his mouth.)

Visitor (*Wakes up*): OK, Mr. Obasi, see you later.

Obasi (*Uneasily*): OK, Sir.

Visitor leaves.

Obasi: Kating or kpang?

Oroka: Ncheneruk.

Chapter 14

Proverbs - Nekeh (Sing=Ukeh)

14.1 Introduction

A proverb is a short, wise story that is intended to edify people.

14.2 Some examples of proverbs

1. *Enyi e qai a koror iyik* (an elephant has come and you say see tusks, meaning *we already face problems.*)
2. *Odia-dia odikom orneke na kito* (leftovers are tastful in the morning, meaning *it is wise to think about tommorow as one eats today.*)
3. *Enanau e sengbene na anchormi koornoort* (scabies maltreat someone without a nail, meaning *you can only maltreat someone without a helper.*)
4. *Ekwe e qua be deu dunyor* (If a leopard dies the face is bought, meaning if an important person dies anyone can batter the face.)
5. *Unorn u meeni dukork* (a cock cannot resist crowing, meaning *a person cannot hide his habit.*)

Chapter 15

Similies – Bantainabukaina (Sing=Antainabukaina)

15.1 Introduction

A similie is a comparison of two things with the use of the word like or as. In Korup, many similies are actually insults.

15.2 Examples of similies

Duop	Dukat
Kort ke yiri nga ka enop	The neck is long like that of an antelop
Iichon i kanghi nga dunkpok	Nose large like a large metal gong
Ichon i yiri nga nya ekoorn	Nose long like that of hornbill
Ichon i nyenghe nga nya ebia	Nose is leaking (wet) like that of a dog
Iwon nga nasandork	Legs like thorns
Bukpat bu diomi nga ba osere	Feet small like those of a sunbird
Dono nga da ekoorn	Head like that of a hornbill
Bekei betori nga dion	The body is hot like fire
O yiri nga Sornghor	He/she is tall like Sornghor
O kuwiri nga kikukum	He/she is short like a stump
O tikiri nga esorke	He/she is shivering like esorke
Nenen nga na andon	Teeth like those of a crab
Or ya dumen nga soi	He/she like drinking like a bee
Dunyor nga da kormborm	Face like that of a bullfrog
Nen nga na ekpukpu a diet	Eyes like that of bull frog

Ingwha ngha iyiri nya chion	Mouth as long as that of a crocodile
Dormorn de biabi ngha da choing	The voice is as bad as that of a crocodile
Baikait be kwoboro ngha ba yiang	Body as crisp as that of a pangolin
O sime ngha ebon	He/she is as stupid as a goat
Ket aye duseeng ngha enami	Look at his/her gait like that of a sheep
Inung i baat ngha nya okororo	Ears are standing like those of okororo
Dono mini-minin ngha chu okat	Head watery like coconut
Ingwha ikanghi ngha okpere	Mouth as big as calabash bowl
Or ya koyo'oror ngha nsorbe	He/she like wandersing like nsorbe
Bian bu bu saiki ngha otouese	This medicine is as bitter as bitterleaf
Or ya bunork ngha konkum	He/she likes fighting like a ram
Bukporka ngha ba ansang	Bad teeth like those of a frog
Beya bantem ngha biyobiyoyo	They love each other like biyobiyoyo

Chapter 16

Reading – Dukoon

16.1 Introduction

This chapter is simply to provide an opportunity to practice some more reading. It includes prayers, songs and stories.

16.2 Songs Of Korup

Nortor Na Kororp

16.2.1 Ekwe aroni, Nkwet aroni

**Ekwe you don't know,
book you don't know**

Dusork:

Ekwe a dorni,
Nkwet a dorni...

Solo:

Ekwe you don't understand,
Education you don't
understand...

Dunamini:

Ikpain ingo,
A ka kpaini na mmung?

Chorus:

Your life,
With what are going to live it?

16.3 Some Prayers Nakam

16.3.1 Prayer Before Meals Akam A Daria

Bless us O Lord
And this your gift
Which we are about to receive
From your goodness
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Tooni ibon Ormuna
Nna kachang kaingo kai
Ka i quaka u nami ndai
A bunorm esin bungo
U tunghi a Kraisi Omuna
obon. Ure ndior

16.3.2 The Lord's Prayer

Akam a Omuna

Our Father who art in Heaven

Amene obon quo ore a

Echong a Orbasi

Hallowed be thy name

Diin dingo di re di sasana

Thy Kingdom come

Dimi Ukara ungo u quai

Thy will be done on Earth

Nik kwa a ya u tibe a kaibain

as it is in Heaven

ngha arangha ure a Echong a
Orbasi

Give us this day our daily bread

Chang ibon ndaikwai daria da
kporkpora daikwai

And forgive us our trespasses

Bari chang ibon ubaii ubon

As we forgive those

Ngharangha i bariri chang

that trespass against us

bansai ibon ubaii

And lead us not into temptation

Kpara tunene korn ibon a
iromo

But deliver us from evil. Amen

Ere tor ibon a ubaii.
Ure ndior.

16.3.3 He That Is Down

Morning Kwo Ore A

Bukei

He that is down

Mmorng kwo or de a

bukei

Need fear no fall;

Or chormi u kworn ebom;

He that is low

A binghene bakait

No pride;

Ubiaibat u deni;

He that is humble

Morning kwo o binghene

baikait

Ever shall

Kporkpor or ka

Have God to be his guide.

Chorm Orbasi ngha

antaina

ainain ormorning.

Kpewi Durorp is the third attempt at bringing Durorp into the public domain, and is a more detailed introduction to the language. It contains sixteen chapters which address important elements of grammar, with some including mini bilingual dictionaries, with words organised not alphabetically but thematically, with the singular aim of facilitating learning and easy acquisition of the language. Durorp is an interesting and linguistically distinct semi-Bantu or Bantoid language spoken by a minority group of people known as Bororp or people of the Kororp ethnic group. A part of this ethnic group inhabits the Southwestern part of Cameroon while the other occupies the Southeastern tip of Nigeria. A minority group, Kororp has continued to suffer not only cultural and socio-economic shrinkage but also linguistic marginalisation characterised by an obvious erosion of some key elements of the language. Like any other language, however, Durorp has borrowings from languages such as Efik, Ejagham, and even English. There is a *Durorp-English Dictionary* to facilitate the development of Durorp vocabulary (Langaa, 2013).

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